

Washington, DC - This evening, Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20) joined a bipartisan majority in voting to pass the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007. The legislation would fund the program through 2012 and provide health insurance to approximately 10 million children, all of whom are currently eligible to receive healthcare but lack benefits due to insufficient federal funding.

Congressman Gonzalez issued the following statement hailing the bill's passage:

"The uninsured children of the working poor in America represent a vulnerable portion of our population who rely on this program for their health and wellbeing. As a result, we have a responsibility to reauthorize this program quickly; the ramifications of our failure to do so are too great."

"I'm proud to have cast this vote on behalf of the 10 million children in America, including almost half a million in the state of Texas, who are currently living without health care. This legislation is a historic investment in our children, and as a result, our nation's future."

"The bill's unprecedented amount of bipartisan support underlines the importance of this legislation and the President needs to join leaders of his own party in supporting this landmark legislation. His veto would recklessly put millions at risk of losing their coverage at a time when we need to be focusing on solving the health care crisis in our country, not amplifying it. I urge him to reconsider his veto threat to instead side with what's most important: the best interests of millions of uninsured children in America."

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